The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 6 SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 1962.

Uncertainty At Ottawa

If the opposition parties in the House of Commons join to bring the Government down on an interim supply motion, as they are now threatening to do, we may be in for another federal general election very soon. But predictions on this score are as uncertain as they ever were. The Government has survived every non-confidence test with which it has been confronted to date. Each opposition party in turn has hastened to its support to make sure that it wasn't defeated; though, of course, that wasn't the reason given.

The Liberals have been calling most loudly for an election, and claim to be ready, willing and eager to face the voters at the earliest possible moment. In fact, though—as Ottawa commentators have not failed to point out—all opposition groups tipped their hands when they pressed the Government incessantly for an early announcement about the plans for a Christmas adjournment.

If they were making serious efforts to defeat the Government and bring on a dissolution of Parliament at any hour of the day or night, what interest would such plans hold for them? But in fact, all parties rejoiced when Mr. Diefenbaker finally announced that "following consultation with the leaders of the several parties," it had been decided that Parliament would adjourn from December 20 to January 21.

That's the way it stands now, despite all the subsequent palaver. Barring some sudden flare-up, or an election-by-miscalculation, it's likely to stay that way until the spring—if the Prime Minister himself doesn't pull the rug from under the lot of them. His latest statement indicates that he has no intention of doing so, but he hasn't committed himself to anything.

At Long Last

A leading article in the current issue of The Legionary, official publication of the Royal Canadian Legion, reviews the tortuous progress made over the past four decades in preparing an official history of Canada's participation in the First World War. Last month—forty-four years after the war ended—"The Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-19" was published by the Queen's Printer, Ottawa. The author is Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, recently retired as director of the Army's historical section. The Legionary commends the result as "a masterly work of care and precision, a monument worthy of the brave men whose deeds it records." But it raises the question of why this long delay should have been permitted to occur.

It seemed utterly inconceivable that a nation which had played a proud and victorious role in a world conflict should have no official history of famous battles fought by her gallant soldiers; that posterity should have no record in book form of their great and dramatic achievements. Other victorious nations lost no time in getting out official war histories. Those of Britain and Australia, in particular, were excellent and were published with commendable dispatch.

In Canada, however, for reasons which were neither realistic nor valid, nineteen years were to elapse before the first of six volumes planned for the official World War I history came out. This was in 1937, two years before the Second World War broke out, and the only story covered the period from August, 1914, to September 1915. Only one major engagement was dealt with—the Second Battie of Ypres. Nothing of an official nature has been available in book form all these years about Vimy and Passchendaele and many other battles in which Canada's fighting men gained the wholesome respect of the enemy and the deep admiration of the rest of the world.

Better results were achieved in presenting, officially, the record of Canadian activities in the Second World War. By then it had become too late to complete the projected 6-volume history of World War 1; but The Legionary kept urging that a single volume similar in scope and treatment to that of World War II be prepared.

Successive Dominion conventions of the Canadian Legion passed resolutions backing up The Legionary's plan, and certain members of Parliament also brought the matter up; but the then Minister of National Defense, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, stated in the House of Commons that the Government had decided not to do anything further about a World War I history.

Finally, however, The Legionary's urgings were heeded, and Colonel Nicholson's book is the result. One point brought out in this belated but admirable record is that of the 619,636 soldiers who served with Canada's Army in World War I, 232,494 became casualties. Of these 60,661, or 9.28 per cent, were fatal. In World War II fatal casualties numbered 41,992, or 3.86 per cent. When it is recalled that in 1914-18 Canada's population was only about 8 millions, the true comparison between the human sacrifices made by this country in the two world wars will be plain.

Disquieting Figures

It has been noted in business reviews that the diversification of agriculture today, combined with the cushioning effects of various government policies, has stabilized farm income to a remarkable degree. This was seen in the anomalous fact that last year in Canada the poorest grain crop for almost a generation was accompanied by the highest farm cash income on record. The biggest feature of the change has been the shift toward livestock and livestock products, which are now responsible for about two-thirds more cash income than all field crops taken together, including fruit and root crops, as well as grains.

However advantageous this change has been, it is plain from the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics release that it affords no ground for complacency. A decline in farm activity, says this report, helped push unemployment in Canada up by 59,000 from mid-October to 342,000 at mid-November. This drop in farm employment was most noticeable in the Prairies and the Maritimes. The Atlantic Provinces generally had the highest jobless rate in November—8.9 per cent of the labor force compared with 6.9 per cent in October. This was almost three times Ontario's rate, and is due, of course, to the lag in industrial as well as agricultural employment. But the latter factor is the one stressed in the Bureau report, and it underlines the need for all the attention that can be given to our farmers' problems in this area.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At least there will be no war over Canada's claim to territorial waters in the Bay of Fundy. Russia is reported to have given Canada assurance that its fishing vessels will stay out of the bay in future.

* * *

In crowded streets, out in the wind and the snow, the red pots of the Salvation Army serve to remind those who pass by that this is the Christmas season, and that there are many who can stand a bit of the Christmas cheer that so many others, so much more fortunate than they, will have. Every cent of the money that goes into these pots will be used to this end. Let's think of it before we pass them by too hurriedly, however busy we may be at this season with our own affairs.

NEW FRENCH REVOLUTION

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Implications For Canada In OAS Report

By Jack Best
Canadian Press Staff Writer

A report prepared for the Organization of American States may turn out to have an important bearing on the lingering issue of whether Canada is to join the hemispheric association.

It was produced by a four-man working group of the OAS legal committee appointed to study what rules and procedures should be established for admitting new members.

Canadian officials are eager to see what action is taken on the report, tabled in Washington several weeks ago and now under study by the legal committee. A special OAS conference may be called to deal with the question.

No matter how the question is disposed of, it is likely to have implications for Canada.

The OAS at present comprises the United States and 20 Latin American republics — though the government of Cuba has been excluded from its activities.

MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERED

Canada and the newly-independent Caribbean states of Jamaica and Trinidad - Tobago are the only western hemisphere states that do not belong. However, the Canadian government has long had the idea of joining under consideration.

The OAS charter, signed by representatives of the 21 republics in 1948 at Bogota, Colombia, is vague on just what would be required for membership by other countries in the hemisphere. Article 2 says "all American states that ratify the present charter are members of the organization."

The move to clarify the issue of new admissions was instigated some months ago by Guatemala, and related to possible membership applications from "new states." This would not include Canada which, it has always been assumed here, could get in simply by ratifying the charter and notifying OAS.

However, in carrying out its assignment, the working group dealt in terms of "new members" generally. The expression appeared several times in its report. Apparently, it pertains to Canada as well as other prospective new members.

STUDY BY FOUR

The working group was composed of representatives of Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil and the United States.

One suggestion that caught the eye of Canadian authorities was that a new member, besides ratifying the OAS charter, should also be required to ratify the Rio Treaty of reciprocal assistance.

Under this treaty, OAS members act jointly to deal with aggression against any of their number, whether it originates inside or outside the hemisphere.

Canadians who advocate their country's joining OAS often argue that Canada could take out membership without at the same time subscribing to the Rio pact. There is a current of feeling in Canada that association with the pact would mean involvement in conflicts that periodically arise among Latin American countries.

QUESTION TIES

Another suggestion of the working group was that a prospective new member "should not have ties or obligations towards extra-continental powers which would be incompatible with the status as a member."

The question being asked here is whether extra-continental powers might conceivably be interpreted by some OAS members to include the Commonwealth.

As for OAS voting on new members, the Guatemalan representative held that applications should require unanimous approval. Colombia and the U.S. suggested a two-thirds majority, and Brazil said admission should be by simple majority vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

A VOTER'S COMPLAINT

Sir, — If you will allow me some of your valuable space, I would like to congratulate the Conservative Government on their victory and the successful Liberal candidates who will form the Opposition.

The main purpose of this letter, however, is not to congratulate but to complain of some of the things which I, as a voter, experienced on election day. I am not referring to any particular party because both parties were at fault. I would like to list a few of these things.

(1) After stating that I was a property holder (I was warned that unless I asked for two ballots I would only get one) I was given two ballots but my wife was refused a vote. She was told that because she was on the Island for less than two months she could not vote. The average person would accept this and leave the poll. But I had checked with my lawyer before the election and was told that both of us had votes. I refused to vote until the problem was cleared up. I was told that if I left the poll I would not be able to go back in the poll room.

While I had waited for about half an hour I picked up a copy of the rules for voting. It stated that one could vote for Councillor if he has a $325 interest in land or is married to a husband or wife who has. To vote for Assemblyman one must: (a) have lived in the Province for at least twelve months and in the electoral district where he seeks to vote for at least two months before the issue of the election writ or (b) own land worth $100. or be married to someone who does. Such a clear ruling should not cause a lot trouble to anyone worthy of working at the polls.

After both Liberal and Conservative headquarters said I had a vote, we both voted. The returning officer reached out his hand for my ballot. He held it behind the ballot box and I assume he was tearing off the counterfoil; then he put it in the ballot box. I noticed in a front page story of the Patriot on December 10th. Mr. Dave Steward and Mr. Alex Matheson are shown putting their own ballot in the box.

(2) Owning property in another district we went to vote again. This time I was handed a ballot without the returning officer's initials.

(3) In another poll a friend of mine came back very disturbed. Why? The ballot that was put in the ballot box just before their turn came up, was actually opened and looked at by the returning officer.

(4) Another friend of mine did not realize that it is customary to be driven by the party for whom you are going to vote if you need a drive. As it happened, it was not her intention to vote for the party that was giving her the drive. However when the candidate she was going to vote for saw her and thinking she was going to vote against him, he began questioning her with many unnecessary questions. Needless to say she changed her vote.

(5) The whole atmosphere at the poll is very repugnant. One feels as if he is going on trial and if there is any indication as to which way you are going to vote, the opposite side seems to look for reasons why you should not be voting.

(6) My wife and I represented twelve votes which I think is ridiculous. I hope the Government sees fit to revise this system of voting. If I, as one voter, experienced all these things, it is obvious that many other people would be experiencing similar incidents. It could be that the workers are not properly informed as to the rules and regulations. If this is the case, then I strongly recommend that workers of all parties be required to study and if necessary be given instructions as a group by a committee of lawyers from all parties.

Other suggestions I would make are:

(1) Election Day should be declared a holiday.

(2) Free transportation. Not Liberals for Liberals or Conservatives for Conservatives but an overall transportation set up with expenses paid by all parties or sponsored by some service club.

(3) Elimination of all liquor as payment for votes. Violation should be made a criminal offense. Personally I would rather be defeated than represent people for whom I had to pass over five dollars or a bottle of rum.

(4) Of all the service clubs we have on the Island I think it would be an excellent project if one would undertake to inform the public through television, radio and the newspaper. Such important items as the laws of the election, the right and duty of the electors, duty of the workers, how the Island is divided into polls and the difference between Councillors and the Assemblymen should be explained. It would be of great help if a model poll could be set up on television and the actual procedures followed from beginning to end. Speaking to any first voter one finds that they are bewildered as to what the whole set up is about.

Some of you who are reading this article may think that I am really making too much of an issue of this. I don't think I am. Our duty to vote is very important and is a very precious privilege that we have. If we allow it to deteriorate we will find ourselves using any means to justify the end. If this comes into our election system it will be no better than Communism or dictatorship where elections are only a formality.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FRANK ZAKEM
Charlottetown.

Care Is Needed At Christmas

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

MAKE this a safe Christmas. Most of us are lucky, considering the fire hazards that we create year after year. There are parties, festivities, gift wappings, decorations, and loads of special fun. And we usually add to this scene one of the most highly flammable objects in the world — the Christmas tree. It burns like fury unless dipped in or sprayed with a flame proofing or flame retardant compound.

Most yule trees must be cut well in advance of the season and may be dry by the time they reach the retail outlet. When too dry, they shed needles easily; their branches are brittle and they burn faster.

Authorities tell me that the best way to test a tree is to bounce the butt hard on the ground. If the needles shower down, it is too dry. The needles should offer some resistance when pulled out, and a stump that is sticky with resin may be messy but it means the tree is fresh and moist, and is less likely to burn.

The next step is to keep the tree outside in a bucket of water or in the snow until ready to put up. Then saw off one inch from the trunk before it is set up and keep the tree in water as long as it remains in the house. Don't put it near heat or the stairs.

No one uses open flame candles but the electric lighting gadgets can cause trouble, especially when the tree is dry. Check the cord and sockets for fire and shock hazards.

Christmas wrappings tend to accumulate unless thrown out every day; don't burn them in the fireplace. Decorations made of noncombustible material such as metal, glass, or asbestos are preferred.

In addition, keep plenty of ash trays handy but no matches. Be emphatic about "no smoking" near the tree. Several years ago two families were made homeless by a young man who had a cigaret dangling from his mouth while trimming the tree. And don't smoke while playing Santa Claus those whiskers ignite easily and burn quickly unless flameproofed.

(Dr. Van Dellen will asnwer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

DRY, PEELING SKIN

W.B. writes: Parts of my feet (bottom and sides) are very dry and always peeling. Is there any way to stop this condition?

REPLY

Yes, if dryness and peeling represent an allergic reaction to materials in the shoes or hose. If sensitivity is not responsible for the symptoms, the best thing to do is keep the skin lubricated with oils or creams.

COFFEE OVERSTIMULATION

J.K. writes: I'm a big, healthy man with a problem. I can't drink coffee. Even if I take only one cup at breakfast, it makes me nervous, upsets my bowel, and keeps me from sleeping at night. What is the reason for these effects?

REPLY

You are hypersensitive to the caffeine in coffee. Why not try a decaffeinated brand?

INJECTION INTO ARM

M.W. writes: What reactions would a person have to a tetanus shot and an antibiotic injection at the same time?

REPLY

None, but the tetanus shot might make the arm sore for 24 hours.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
December 15, 1937

Zion Presbyterian Church session at a meeting Wednesday night accepted the resignation of Professor Louis D. Thompson as organist and choir director. Professor Thompson who came to Charlottetown more than ten years ago will leave later this month for Cornwall, Ont. where he will assume duties at Knox United Church.

Mrs. F. Watson and family who have been residing in Murray Harbor, left yesterday on return to Norfolk, England, where they will join Mr. Watson who returned some time ago. They will sail from Halifax by S.S. Newfoundland, for Liverpool.

TEN YEARS AGO
December 15, 1952

The children of St. Vincent's Orphanage were the guests of the IOOF at the hockey game between the Islanders and the Glace Bay Miners Friday night. Generous treats of ice cream, fruit and nuts were also provided by the IOOF.

The Autumn edition of St. Dunstan's University "Red and White" is in keeping with the high standard of past years which has placed this periodical in the catagory of "well worth reading" for many years past.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There is no one so tiresome as a person who has never learned to be a good listener. — Hamilton Spectator.

In Alicante, Spain, a circus elephant mistook a 45-gallon barrel of rum for her water barrel. She'll never forget that. — Ottawa Jounal.

In Casablanca noisy motor wedding processions are stopped, the cars impounded and the processions permitted to proceed by foot. Eventually the same treatment could spread if the tooting horns are not muffled. — St. Catherine's Standard.

Taking a cue from, among others, morticians who used to be undertakers and custodians who used to be janitors, the nation's bowling proprietors are well along in a campaign to have their places of recreation known as bowling lanes rather than bowling alleys. —Portland Oregonian.

The Crowsnest produces a note on a burly ex-sailor employed as a technical officer at the Naval Armament Depot in Dartmouth, N.S., who devotes his spare time to embroidery. A dozen samples of his work are displayed in a Halifax library; his version of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" took him 2,500 hours over a three-year period. These male embroidery specialists turn up in strange places. Usually they are tough enough to make anyone who thinks embroidery sissy stuff keep his mouth shut. — Ottawa Journal.

There are few persons whose attitudes and opinions aren't colored more or less by the long green. — Oshawa Times.

A scientist reports that fat people eat less than thin people. Naturally, thin people aren't on a diet. — Calgary Herald.

Poor Charlotte Whitton, mayor of Ottawa, has been so roundly criticized for attempting to injure Controller Tardif's chops that we feel duty bound to report that things are worse in La Paz, Bolivia. According to reports, Rosa Lema Dolz, an aggressive spinster member of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies, flew into such a snit at her party leader that she formally challenged him to a duel to the death. And that isn't all. "If he won't duel, I'll kill him anyway," she promised. — Hamilton Spectator.

London Fire Chief Milton Mathers has pointed to something every family can do, and should do, to counter the menace of fire. Each family should hold a council of its own to decide what action will be taken in case of an outbreak of fire. Points of hazard should be determined and methods of escape determined. Fires have a habit of breaking out in unexpected ways and places. In such cases panic may take over. By the time necessary decisions are made it may be too late. Every family should consider if the chief's suggestion applies to them. — London Free Press.

Mistaken Priorities

Halifax Mail - Star

Chignecto Canal proponents in the House of Commons have diverse political views, but the dogged unanimity they display in attempting to push this grandiose scheme at the expense of far more urgent matters of Atlantic Provinces economic policy, must engender some ironical, if private, comment among MP's representing other provinces outside the Atlantic region.

First of last week, Hugh John Flemming, long-time Premier of New Brunswick, but now Minister of Revenue in the Diefenbaker administration, listed six items which should be given "urgent consideration" by the Atlantic Provinces Development Board. To no one's surprise, Mr. Flemming gave top priority to the controversial Chignecto Canal project.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Jean-Eudes Dube, Liberal member representing Restigouche - Madawaska, said that the proposed Development Board should recommend immediate construction of the Chignecto Canal and the P. E. I. causeway. Inasmuch as the latter has already been accepted in principle and is now in the planning stage, the inescapable thought is that it was tacked on to Mr. Dube's speech to strengthen the demand for the canal.

We can well understand the determination of Revenue Minister Flemming and fellow New Brunswicker Jean-Eudes Dube to promote the construction of a canal which would, undoubtedly, be of some measure of economic value to their province. But there is a notable lack of enthusiasm for this project in other parts of the seaside provinces, Halifax in particular, which sees in it another threat to its traditional port business.

By far the most important measure which the Development Board will be expected to consider, we suggest, is the revitalization of the coal industry in Nova Scotia. For this is a matter of extreme urgency, affecting as it does thousands of people in Cape Breton and on the mainland and a large number in New Brunswick as well.

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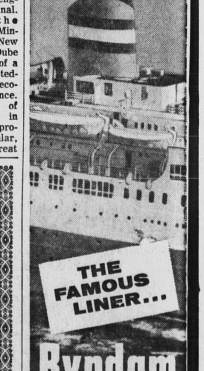

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